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ABSTRACT

Designed for middle school through high school students, this unit contains eight lesson plans that focus on Massachusetts state law. The state lessons correspond to lessons in the volume, "Antidote: Civic Responsibility. Drug Avoidance Lessons for Middle School & High School Students." Developed to be presented by educators, law student, or attorneys, the state lessons are interactive and sequential, although individual lessons can stand alone. The document includes legal information about driving while intoxicated, drug offenses, sentencing, and drug and alcohol statutes written specifically to combat juvenile abuse. (RJC)

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Antidote: Civic Responsibility

Massachusetts Law

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Lesson 1

1. Has Aimee violated any state laws? Have her parents?

Aimee has violated no Massachusetts law as there is no law which makes a minor liable for an unintentionally dangerous act toward another minor.

Aimee and Carrie's parents may be in violation of Massachusetts law and could possibly have their daughters removed from their custody. Mass. Gen. L. ch. 119 §24 (1993 Supp.) gives juvenile courts the authority to remove the child from a home if the child is not receiving necessary and proper physical care, is growing up in conditions damaging to the child's development, or is lacking in proper attention from a parent This end one accident is probably inappropriate and unduly harsh. However, if Aimee and Carrie are routinely unsupervised for long periods of time the circumstances are different such that custody might be taken from their parents.

2. Does state law allow 17 year old Tyrell to drink a glass of wine with his dinner without his parents' consent?

Yes. Massachusetts law does not prohibit alcohol consumption by persons under 21. Note however, that Massachusetts does prohibit persons under 21 from purchasing or attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages (Mass. Gen. L. ch. 138 §34A (1991)) and from operating a motor vehicle containing alcohol or transporting alcohol on one's person absent accompaniment by one's parent or guardian. (Mass. Gen. L. ch. 138, § 34C (1993 Supp.)). Additionally, anyone who sells, furnishes or delivers alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 is in violation of Mass. Gen. L. ch. 138, §34 (1991).

3. Is Maria violating any law when she tells her roommates whom to call to buy marijuana?

Possession of marijuana, a controlled substance, is illegal in Massachusetts. Mass. Gen. L. ch. 94C, §34 (1984). Consequently, Maria is in violation of Mass. Gen. L. ch. 94C, §40 (1984) making it unlawful for any person to conspire with another person to violate a drug control law.

4. Have Adam and Alex broken any laws other than those against drinking and fighting?

Adam and Alex's behavior will be considered blameworthy in light of Joe's death. There are several charges they may face, the most severe being manslaughter. Manslaughter is the taking of human life by act not justified in law, but without malice aforethought. Commonwealth v. Campbell, 226 NE2d 211 (1962). A less severe charge against the twins would be an assault charge. Mass. Gen. L. ch 265, §13A (1990).

5. **Has Jose violated any state law even though he is not drinking? Has Carlos or TJ violated any state law?**

Yes, Jose has violated Mass. Gen. L. ch.138, §34C (1993 Supp.) which prohibits an individual under 21 not accompanied by a parent or guardian from transporting or carrying on his person any alcohol or alcoholic beverages. TJ is also in violation of this law.

If Carlos provided alcohol to TJ, he is in violation of Mass. Gen. L. ch. 138, §34 (1991).

6. **Is Dr. Melrose violating any state or federal law by prescribing pain killers without conducting an examination or determining need?**

Dr. Melrose is violating not only state law, but federal law too. Under 21 U.S.C.A. § 829, a physician must have a legitimate medical purpose for dispensing drugs, and the act of dispensing or prescribing drugs should be within the usual course of professional conduct. U.S. v. Varma, 691 F.2d 460 (1982), U.S. v. Jamieson, 605 F. Supp. 119 (1985).

Dr. Melrose's patients, if they do not provide him with a bona fide reason for needing the painkillers, may also be breaking the law. 21 U.S.C.A. § 843 prohibits knowingly or unknowingly acquiring possession of a controlled substance by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge.

He is further in violation of Massachusetts law which makes unlawful the uttering of a false prescription for a controlled substance since he issued the prescription in bad faith, without the patient having a valid medical need. Mass. Gen. L. Ch. 94C, §33(c) (1993).

7. **Is Danielle violating any law by taking only one or two pills from someone else's prescription?**

Danielle is violating several state and federal laws. Since she is in effect dispensing prescription drugs to herself, she is violating 21 U.S.C.A. § 829, which prohibits dispensing any controlled substance which is a prescription drug without the written prescription of a practitioner. She is also violating 21 U.S.C.A. § 843, which prohibits knowingly or unknowingly acquiring possession of a controlled substance by misrepresentation, fraud, forgery, deception or subterfuge and 21 U.S.C.A. § 844 which prohibits simple possession of a controlled substance unless such a substance was obtained by a prescription. The seriousness of her crime under federal drug control laws will depend on the type of drug which she is taking and how the drugs are used.

Danielle is in violation of Mass. Gen. L. ch. 94C, §33(b) (1993 Supp.) for knowing or intentionally acquiring possession of a controlled substance by deception. She was to deliver the pills to the individuals to who they had been issued, but instead retained possession of part of the prescription. Her

behavior not only violates criminal drug control laws, but constitutes larceny. Stealing or intending to defraud the property of another is a violation of Mass. Gen. L. ch. 266, §30 (1993).

8. Is Renee breaking any law even though she is not selling drugs herself?

Even thought she is not selling drugs directly, Renee is violating several state and federal laws. She is violating 21 U.S.C.A. § 841 prohibiting possession of a controlled substance with the intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense drugs and 21 U.S.C.A. § 844 prohibiting simple possession of a controlled substance.

Renee could receive an increased sentence in accordance with the federal sentencing guidelines as a result of her using children in her scheme. Under 21 U.S.C.A. § 859, the distribution of a controlled substance to a person under 21 year of age is subject to increased penalties. The United States expressed its concern with the importance of protecting children from drug trafficking under 21 U.S.C.A. § 860, which imposes heavier prison sentences in cases involving the distribution or manufacture of controlled substances in the proximity of schools, playgrounds or youth centers. 18 U.S.C.A. App. 4 § 3B1.3 also provides for increased sentences in cases of abuse of one's position of trust, as in a drug trafficking defendant involving her daughter in the drug trade. U.S. v. Ledesma, 979 F.2d 816 (1992).

Renee is violating Mass. Gen. L. ch. 94C, §32 since she knowingly or intentionally manufactures, distributes, dispenses, or possesses with intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled substance. The precise subsection depends on the classification of the controlled substance. Massachusetts will also punish Renee for involving Mary in her activities. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly cause, induce, or abet a person under the age of 18 to distribute, dispense or possess with the intent to distribute or dispense any controlled substance. Mass. Gen. L. ch. 94C, §32K (1993 Supp.). Further, if the park is located in, on or within 1000 feet from a school she is in violation Mass. Gen. L. ch. 94C, §32J (1993 Supp.).

9. Did Jim violate any law other than those regarding controlled substances?

Their heroin use is a felony under federal drug-control statutes. 21 U.S.C.A. § 841 prohibits possession of a controlled substance with the intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense such substance. 21 U.S.C.A. § 844 prohibits simple possession of a controlled substance.

Mass. Gen. L. ch. 94C, §27 (1984) makes it illegal for a non-enumerated person to have in his possession a hypodermic

syringe or needle or any instrument adapted for the administration of a controlled substance by injection. Jim is in violation of this law.

Jim transmitted the HIV virus to Andre through the shared needle. Massachusetts has not yet dealt with this issue. Under the Model Penal Code, however, Jim's behavior could constitute simple or aggravated assault or the attempt thereof, or reckless endangerment; under certain extreme situations, it could be construed as murder. See Gene Schultz, AIDS: Public Health and the Criminal Law, 7 St. Louis U. Pub. L. Rev. 65 (1988); Roger N. Braden, AIDS: Dealing With the Plague, 19 N. Ky. L. Rev. 277 (1992). In some cases, it has been suggested that the HIV virus provides a deadly weapon. Cf. Brock v. State, 555 So.2d 285 (Ala. Crim. App. 1989).

10. **Has the bartender or owner of Bulldog's Bar & Grill violated any law?**

Yes. It is illegal to sell or deliver alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person on any premises licensed under Mass. Gen. L. ch. 138. Mass. Gen. L. ch. 138, §69 (1993).

Lesson 2

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS: DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENSES UNIFORM CRIME REPORT DATA OF 1990--CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

According to the Uniform Crime Report of 1990, 68% of the drug abuse violators were arrested for possession of heroin, cocaine or a narcotic derivative. A little over 31% of drug arrests were for the sale and manufacture of drugs.

Out of the 14,195,100 total number of arrests that occurred in 1990, drug abuse violations accounted for 1,089,500, driving under the influence comprised 1,810,800, and liquor law violations represented 714,700 of the total.

1981-1990 Ten Year Trend

Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations

In 1981, the total number of arrests for drug abusers under the age of 18 was 69,383. On the other hand in 1990, the total number was 50,435. This represents a 27.3% **decrease** in the number of arrests for persons under the age of 18. However, the number of arrests for persons over the age of 18 represent an 89.9% **increase** from 332,733 in 1981 to 631,932 in 1990.

Liquor Law Violations

For persons over the age of 18, the number of arrests for liquor law violations have dramatically **increased** to 61% from 218,079 in 1981 to 351,064 in 1990. However, the number of arrests for persons under the age of 18 has decreased to less than 0.4%.

♦ ♦ ♦

Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1990 A National Crime Victimization Survey Report, February, 1992

Percent Distribution of Victimizations by Perceived Drug or Alcohol Use by Offender:

- Of the **130,260** total rapes reported by victims to police, **49.8%** were believed to be committed by someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Of a total of **1,149,710** reported robberies, **24.2%** involved an offender under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Of **1,600,760** aggravated assaults committed **40%** were committed by people under the influence of drugs.
- Of the **3,128,130** simple assaults reported, **32.9%** were perpetrated by someone perceived to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Lesson 4

FEDERAL SCHEDULE (answers to handout 3)

DRUG	SCHEDULE
heroin	schedule 1
beer	not a scheduled drug
vodka	not a scheduled drug
nitrate	not a scheduled drug
amphetamines	schedule 3
caffeine	not a scheduled drug
marijuana	schedule 1
crack	schedule 2
scotch	not a scheduled drug
MSG	not a scheduled drug
cocaine	schedule 2
glue	not a scheduled drug

FEDERAL PENALTIES BY SCHEDULE FOR POSSESSION

SCHEDULE	MAX. PRISON	MAX. FINE	MAX. TOTAL
schedule 1	15 years	$25,000	15yrs + $25,000
schedule 2	15 years	$25,000	15yrs + $25,000
schedule 3	5 years	$15,000	5yrs + $15,000
schedule 4	3 years	$10,000	3yrs + $10,000
schedule 5	1 year	$ 5,000	1yr + $ 5,000
unscheduled drug	n/a	n/a	n/a

The penalty doubles if the defendant has a previous conviction for a schedule law violation.

In order for a drug to be a narcotic, it must be a derivative of opium. All narcotics contain opium or opium derivatives, ie: heroin.

Malt beverages such as beer are not included in the scheduling process. They are controlled by liquor laws.

Information from 21 U.S.C.A. § 841 (West 1981).

States	Heroin	Cocaine	Crack	Marijuana	Amphetamine
Alabama	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 3
Alaska	sch 1A	sch 2A	sch 2A	sch 3A	sch 4A
Arizona	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Arkansas	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	not listed
California	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Colorado	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Connecticut	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 3
Delaware	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
D.C.	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 2	sch 2
Florida	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Georgia	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1[1]	sch 2
Hawaii	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Idaho	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Illinois	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	listed under its act: the Cannabis Control Act, 56 1/2 §701 et seq	sch 2
Indiana	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Iowa	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Kansas	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 1
Kentucky	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Louisiana	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Maine[2]	sch W	sch W	sch W	sch W & Z	sch W
Maryland	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 1
Massachusetts[3]	class A	class B	class B	class D	class B
Michigan	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Minnesota	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Mississippi	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Missouri	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Montana	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2

[1] Must have more than 15% THC (tetrahydrocannobinol), the chemical in the cannabis plant.

[2] Maine schedules its drugs under an alphabetical category: W, X, Y & Z. The schedules are similar to other state categorizations.

[3] Massachusetts calls their schedules classes, but they are the same thing.

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States	Heroin	Cocaine	Crack	Marijuana	Amphetamine
Nebraska	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Nevada[4]	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 3
New Hampshire	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 3
New Jersey	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 3
New Mexico	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1 & 2	sch 2
New York	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
North Carolina	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	NC has a sixth schedule which incl. marijuana	sch 2
North Dakota	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Ohio	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Oklahoma	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Pennsylvania	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Puerto Rico	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 3
Rhode Island	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
South Carolina	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
South Dakota	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Tennessee	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 2, but only for certified patients under the Controlled Substances Therapeutic Research Act	sch 2
Texas	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Utah	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Vermont	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 3
Virginia	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	not listed, but liquid marijuana or hashish oil is listed as sch 1	sch 2
Washington	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
West Virginia	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2
Wisconsin	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2

[4] While Nevada does not specifically name drugs under its five schedules, but instead lists the specific tests to determine under which schedule a drug belongs § 453.2182 says that the state will use 21 USC as a guide for scheduling. The state merely reserves the right to reschedule any controlled substance as it sees fit according to the tests set out in 453.166, et. seq.

States	Heroin	Cocaine	Crack	Marijuana	Amphetamine
Wyoming	sch 1	sch 2	sch 2	sch 1	sch 2

OFFENSE/SUBSTANCE	SENTENCE
First Offense: Cocaine - Possession With Intent To Distribute - 5 kg	• prison for a period not to exceed 10 years or a house of corrections for a period not to exceed 2.5 years, and/or • fine of $1000 to $10,000
First Offense: Trace of Heroin - Possession of 1 kg or more of a mixture with a small, but detectable amount of heroin	• prison for a period not to exceed 10 years or a house of corrections for a period not to exceed 2.5 years, and/or • fine of $1000 to $10,000
First Offense: Codeine - Possession - 200 mg	• prison for a period not to exceed 5 years or a house of corrections for a period not to exceed 2.5 years, and/or • fine of $500 to $5000
Second Offense: Marijuana - Possession - 50 kg	• house of corrections for between 1 and 2.5 years, and/or • fine of between $1000 and $10,000
Third Offense - Methamphetamine - Possession - 100 g	• prison for between 3 and 10 years, and/or • fine of $2500 and $25,000

Cite: Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch 94C § 31 (1993).

Current Federal Penalties:

Group 1 and Group 2: . . . person shall be sentenced to prison which may not be less than 10 years or more than life and a fine not to exceed 4 million dollars.

Group 3: . . . person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than one year, a fine not exceed $250,000 in the case of an individual.

Group 4: . . . person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years, a fine not to exceed $500,000.

Group 5: . . . person shall be sentenced mandatory life imprisonment without release and fine not to exceed $8 million.

Cite: 21 U.S.C. § 841 (1992).

Lesson 6 & 7

1. **What does DWI stand for?**

Driving while intoxicated.

2. **What does DUI stand for?**

Driving under the influence. Under 90 §24 it is illegal to drive while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, including beer. One is under the influence with a blood alcohol content of 0.10.

3. **In terms of penalties, is being convicted of DWI more serious than being convicted of DUI?**

There is no difference under Massachusetts law.

4. **What are the penalties for being convicted of DWI? DUI?**

CONVICTION	PENALTY
first	*• fine of $100 to $1000, and/or • imprisoned for not more than 2 years, and • license revoked for 1 year
second (within 6 years)	*• fine of $300 to $1000, and/or • imprisonment for up to 2 years, 14 days of which are mandatory, and • license revoked for 2 years
third (within 6 years)	*• fine of $500 to $1000, and/or • imprisonment for 90 days to 2 years, 90 days are mandatory, and • license revoked for 5 years
fourth and subsequent (within 6 years)	*• fine of $500 to $1000, and/or • imprisonment for 6 months to 2 years, 6 months are mandatory, and • license revoked for 10 years

* There shall be a surcharge of $100 if convicted for driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor for every multiple offense - $100 each conviction. The money from this surcharge will be deposited by the court to the Fund for Head Injury Treatment.

For those under 21, the court shall suspend a child's license for not more than 5 years for violation of driving under the influence. If the child is under 18 years of age and not licensed, the child may not be licensed until s/he reaches 21.

5. **What is the penalty for refusing to submit to a breathalyzer test upon a police officer's reasonable request?**

Under 90 §24(f) whoever drives on the roads of Massachusetts consents to a breath test. If one refuses to take the test his/her license will be suspended for 120 days.

6. **What must a person's blood alcohol content (BAC) be before he/she is legally intoxicated?**

Under 90 §24(e) there is a presumption that if one's BAC is 0.15 or more than s/he is legally intoxicated.

7. **The legal limit for blood alcohol is lower for persons under the legal drinking age of 21. True or False?**

False. Massachusetts does not provide a lower BAC for person under 21.

8. **An open container of alcohol can be in your car if you are 21 or over. True or False?**

True, ONLY if you are NOT drinking from the open container. 90 § 24I states that it is unlawful for anyone to operate a motor vehicle while drinking from an open container of any alcoholic beverage. A fine of $100 to $500 will be imposed for violation of this law.

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Lesson 9

Although the drinking age is 21 in all 50 states (meaning specifically that the sale of alcohol to minors is prohibited), the laws on teenage drinking vary from state to state. The laws vary in regard to whether they include prohibition of the purchase of alcohol, the attempt to purchase alcohol, the consumption of alcohol and the possession of alcohol. According to the March 11, 1993 Safety Recommendation report of the National Transportation Safety Board,

- Five states (DE, FL, MT, NH & NY) and the District of Columbia do not prohibit the purchase of alcohol by minors.
- West Virginia and the District of Columbia do not prohibit public possession of alcohol by minors.
- 23 states (AK, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, RI, IL, IA, LA, ME, MD, MI, MS, MT, NV, NH, NY, SC, TX, UT, VT, VA) do not prohibit minors from attempting to purchase alcohol.
- 21 states (AR, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IA, KY, LA, MA, MS, MO, NE, NH, NM, NC, OR, SC, VT, WV, WY) do not prohibit alcohol consumption by minors.
- 16 states (AR, CA, CO, HI, KY, LA, NE, MI, NM, NY, NC, OK, SD, VA, WA, WY) do not prohibit minors from misrepresenting their age in order to purchase alcohol.
- 19 states (AL, AR, CO, DE, DC, IA, KS, LA, MD, NM, MT, NJ, OR, PA, SC, UT, VA, WA, WI) do not prohibit minors from presenting false ID to purchase alcohol.

In addition, most states do no prohibit minors from driving with alcohol in their blood unless their blood alcohol content reaches the adult legal limit, which is .10 percent in most states. Fifteen states, however, have amended their laws to lower for minors the permitted blood alcohol content while driving. These laws vary according to the age under which minors must be in order for the lower blood alcohol content to apply. Here is the layout for state laws on blood alcohol content for minors while driving:

0.00 BAC	0.01 BAC	0.02 BAC	0.04 BAC	0.05 BAC	0.06 BAC
AZ (<21)	NJ (<21)	ME (<21)	RI (<21)	CA (<18)	GA (<18)
NC (<19)		MD (<21)	NH (<21)	NM (<18)	
OR (<21)		OH (<18)			
UT (<21)		VT (<18)			
WI (<18)					

A number of states have tried to cut down on teenage driving accidents by implementing nighttime driving restrictions. The following states have some form of curfew for teenage driving:

ID: minors <16 can drive during the daytime only
IL: minors <17 cannot drive between 11pm-6am Mon-Thur and 12am-6am Fri-Sun
LA: minors <15 cannot drive between 11pm-6am Mon-Thur and 12am:6am Fri-Sun
MD: minors <16 cannot drive between 12am-5am
MA: minors <18 cannot drive between 1am-4am
NY: minors <18 cannot drive between 9pm-5am
PA: minors <18 cannot drive between 12am-5am
SD: minors <16 cannot drive between 8pm-6am.

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